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HISTORICAL DRAMA,

ENTITLED

IN THE PIT AND OUT OF THE PIT,

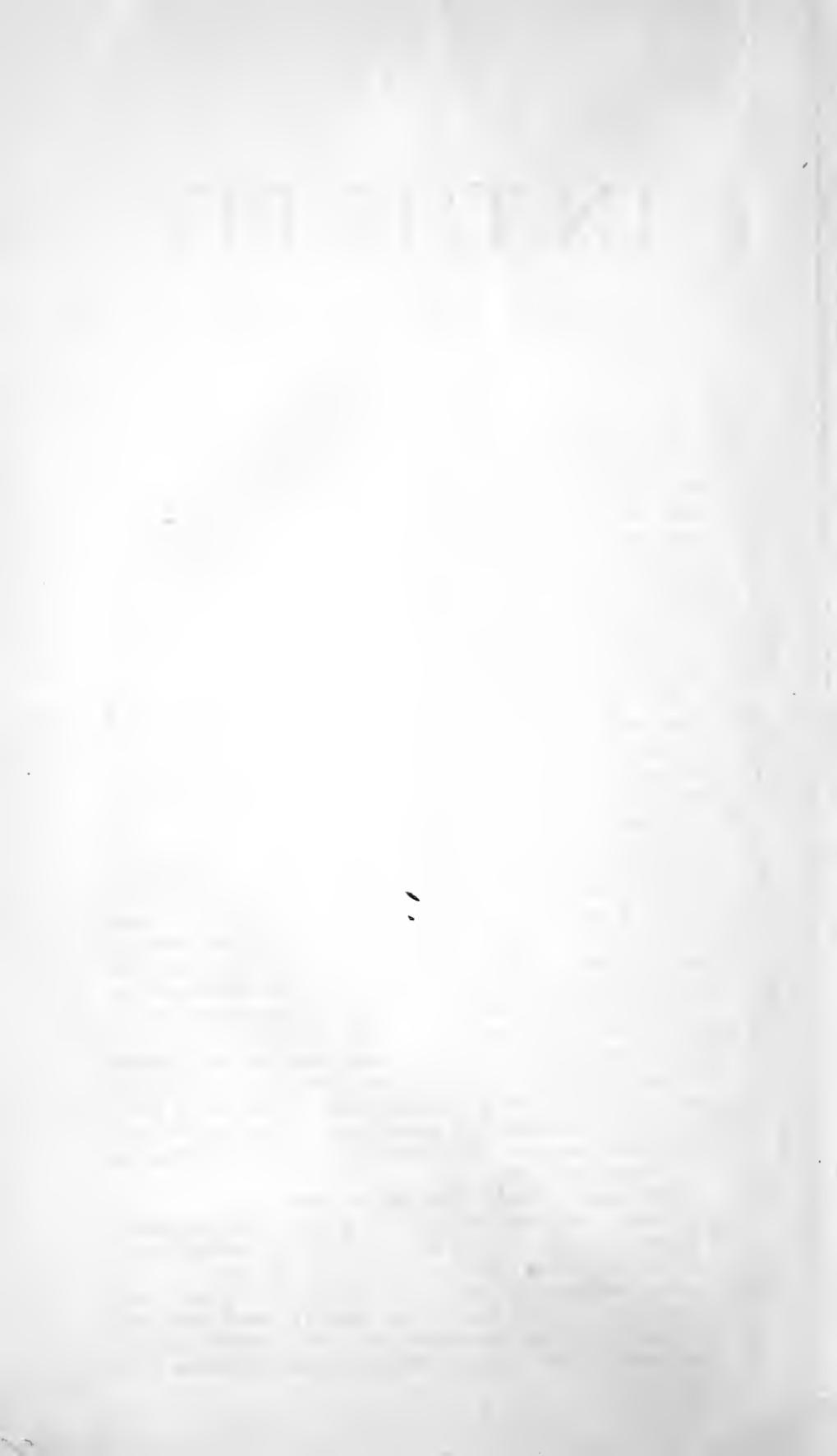
—BY—

ABEL PECK.

2172 NY

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IN THE PIT, AND OUT OF THE PIT.

PART 1.

[Curtain rises showing men in a field and boy feeding sheep. One of the men turning quickly to the boy addresses him gruffly with the words, "See here, boy, we don't want any of your help ; you had better run home to your Pa, for you know you are his petted sonny, and he may be worried about you we know, fearing you might take a cold or soil that new coat he has taken so much pains to fit you up with.]

(Boy.) Father sent me to help you feed the sheep. Can't I stay and help you ? I am not afraid to work. Do let me stay and help you.

(One of the men sharply.) I tell you to leave. We don't want any of your father's pets here. (Boy leaves.)

(Men hold conversation together.)

(Lee.) Say, Rube, do you know that the old man is making a fool of that pet boy of his ? The idea of dressing him up in that fantastic coat, making him as proud as Lucifer. If this thing is allowed to go on, he will soon be too big for his clothes, and will think he must be lording it over us. I do think the old man thinks more of him than all of us put together. I tell you, we must nip this thing right in the bud, or we shall have a master before we know it. Don't you remember how he told us the other day about a dream he had, in which he said : While we were all binding wheat in the field, his sheaf arose and stood upright, and all our sheaves bowed down to his ; and then, another dream he had, in which, not only ours but our father's and our mother's bowed down and made obeisance to his ? I tell you this thing has gone far enough, we can't trifle with it any longer. We must put that boy where he will dream no more.

(Exit men. Father and boy appear.)

(Father.) My son, what brought you home so soon ? I expected you to stay and help your brothers take care of the flocks. How is it you did not stay ?

(Boy, sadly.) Oh, my dear father, they would not let me stay. They treated me roughly, said they did not want my help, and called me your petted sonny. They said I had better go home, for you would be wor-

rying about me catching cold, or soiling my new coat. I begged them to let me stay, but they got angry and told me to leave. I don't know why they should treat me so.

(*Father.*) I think, my son, it is because of those queer dreams of yours, indicating that your parents and all your brothers should some day bow themselves down in obeisance to you. I think it would have been better for you had you never told your dreams ; and now, my son, say no more about it, but cheer up; be a good boy, and take some nice refreshments in thy hand and go up to thy brothers again in the field, and say to them I sent you to inquire after their welfare and bring them these nice refreshments. I pray they may receive you kindly, and that you may return to me again with good news. (*Exit father and son.*)

(*Boy goes to meet his brothers*)

(*Brothers in conversation together on the stage*)

(*Sim.*) Say, Lee, don't you think it about time for that young dreamer to be around here again? It is now about a week since we sent him flying home to the old man.

(*Lee.*) I don't think you will see him back again soon; but if he should venture to come, I think he will never see his doting old father's face again.

(*Jud.*) Why Lee, what do you mean by such talk? You would not kill the poor boy, would you?

(*Lee.*) Well, if he ever dares to show his face here again, you will see whether he will be killed or not. What do you think about it, Sim?

(*Sim.*) I think just as you do, that if he ever comes here again, he will never go away alive.

(*Dan.*) That is just my opinion. If he comes here, we must see to it that he never goes away alive. We can slay him and cast him into some pit. We can tell the old man that some wild beast had devoured him. Then we shall see what will become of his fairy dreams.

(*Rube.*) Dear brothers, will you let me give you a few words of advice; as I am the eldest, I think you ought to listen to what I am going to say. I beg of you not to shed the blood of our little brother, he is young and thoughtless. What if he did dream, it is but a dream, and will amount to nothing, it is only a boy's whim. I hope he will never come here again ; but if he does, I beg of you lay no hand of violence upon him. Now I am going away, and if he should come during my absence, put him into this pit till my return, I'll be back soon. (*Rube leaves.*)

(*Zef.*) See there, Dan, I think he is coming now.

(*Gad.*) That is him, I can tell him by that coat, I could swear to it if he was a mile off. Now, let us be ready, and just as soon as he comes near we will jerk that coat off him quicker than he ever put it on ; and

we can chuck him into this pit till we can determine which is the best way to dispatch him.

(Boy comes near holding up basket of refreshments.)

(Boy.) Dear brothers, father sent me up with these nice refreshments and said I must come back quickly and tell him how you are getting along. See! they are very nice; it was heavy for me to bring so far, and I am very tired, but I don't mind it, for I know you will enjoy them. (They take the basket and set it aside, seize him roughly and tear off his coat and drag him toward the pit.)

(Boy cries out in agony.) Please don't hurt me, please don't, please don't. Oh! my poor father, Oh! my poor father! (Amid his pleading they thrust him into the pit.)

(Brothers together.) Now for our lunch. (They take up the basket the boy brought, spread its contents before them and begin to eat, talking over the boy's case.)

(Ash.) Say boys, what do you think is the easiest and safest way to get rid of that young dreamer?

(Lee.) I would pile stones upon him and fill up the pit, and no one would ever think of looking there for him. We can take his coat and dip it in the blood of a kid, take it to his father and say to him that some wild beast has torn him in pieces, and we only found his coat. I know it will almost kill the old man, but we will pacify him in some way.

(Jud.) Will you just listen to me one minute? What profit will it be to us if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? I pray you not to do this thing, let us not lay our hands upon him to kill him, for he is our brother and has done us no harm. Look! there come some travelers, I think they are gypsies. Now, I will tell you what we can do. we can sell him to them and they will carry him to some foreign country, and we will not be guilty of murder. What do you say?

(Altogether.) Agreed, we will do it.

[They draw the lad out of the pit, and await the approach of the gypsies. As they draw near, Sim salutes them with, Hello! where are you bound?]

(Gypsies.) Roaming over the country to see what we can find to speculate upon.

(Sim.) Don't you want to buy a boy? Will sell him cheap.

(Gypsies.) How cheap?

(Sim.) You may have him for 20 pieces of silver.

(Gypsies.) We will take him. (Counts out the money and takes the boy along)

(Sim.) That was well done, that will settle the dreaming business. Now we must kill the kid and dip the coat in its blood, carry it to the old man and tell him that is all there is left of his dear boy. I fear it will break his heart, but we must all speak kind words to him and try to console him all we can.

[Rube returns and asks, Has the boy been here, and they reply Yes, and he goes directly to the pit to look for his little brother. When he finds him gone he rends his clothes, and turning to his brothers, cries out in great agony, Oh! where is the child? Where is he? Tell me what you have done with him. Oh! my dear brother! my dear brother! He is gone, he is gone! what shall I do? whither shall I go! (*Wrings his hands and weeps aloud.*) (*Exit all.*)

[Father and youngest son, Benjamin, on the stage. The sons come in and the father rises to meet them, and says, Is it well with you, my sons? and is the lad with you?]

(*Sim.*) No, my dear father, the boy is not with us, but here is a coat we found in the fields. Look and see if it is thy son's coat.

(*Father.*) Oh, yes! Truly it is my son's coat. Some evil beast has devoured him. Oh, my dear boy! my dear boy! O would I had died for thee! Oh, my boy; my poor boy! (*He weeps aloud.*)

[His sons and daughters gather around and try to console him, but he waves them away and cries out in agony, Let me die and go to my dear boy!] (*Curtain falls.*)

PART 2.

(*Curtain rises, showing gypsies, officer and boy in Egypt.*)

(*Officer.*) Well what do you want for this boy?

(*Gypsies.*) We must have forty pieces of silver.

(*Officer.*) All right, (counts out money and says), Here is your cash.

[Captain calls Daisy. Daisy is a colored girl. Here, Daisy, go tell your mistress [I wish to see her in my studio. Now, be quick.]

(*Daisy.*) Yes, Massa, I goes right quick.

[Wife enters.]

(*Captain.*) My dear Bertie, see what a beautiful present I have bought for you. I bought this bright little Hebrew boy purposely for you. Accept him and he shall be your slave. Set him to work at anything you please.

(*Bertie.*) Thank you, captain. I think I shall be pleased with him.

(*Captain.*) Now good by, I must hurry to my post of duty. I will be home at the usual hour. (*Exit Captain.*)

(*Mistress to boy.*) Now, my little fellow, what is your name?

(*Boy.*) My name is Josie. They call me the dreamer.

(*Mistress.*) Very well, then—I will call you Josie. Now, Josie, you know you are mine, and when you

hear me call, or when I send for you, you must come quick. You must do what you are told to do nicely and quickly. Now I will send you to the kitchen, and you can help our chief butler Toby. Here Daisy, go and tell Toby I want him. Be quick now.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, Missus, I goes lively. (Toby enters, he is colored.)

(*Toby.*) What is it, Missus?

(*Mistress.*) Here is a little Hebrew boy. I want you to take him into your department, and learn him how to manage household affairs. Do you hear what I say?

(*Toby.*) Yes, Missus, I'll do my bery best. (*Exit all.*)

Kitchen Scene.

(*Toby in kitchen.*) Now, my little man, you look like a right smart boy. What is your name?

(*Boy.*) My name is Josie, but they call me the dreamer.

(*Toby.*) All right. Now, Josie, you must help me about the kitchen, run out to the market, and make yourself generally useful. Do you know anything about cooking, my little fellow?

(*Boy.*) No. I am a shepherd boy, and used to attend my father's sheep.

(*Toby.*) Very well, I think you will soon learn to be useful in the kitchen. You must watch me and see how I do everything about the house. You will soon learn to do it just as well as I can. (*Exit.*)

[*Bertie on stage.*]

Captain returns and wife meets him with a kiss.

(*Captain.*) Well, Bertie, how do you get along with you little Hebrew protege?

(*Wife.*) Oh, I hardly know. I gave him to Toby and gave orders to put him through the routine of kitchen work. I have not heard from him since.

(*Captain.*) Suppose we send for Toby and see what he has to say about him?

(*Mistress.*) Daisy, go down and tell Toby to come up to my studio. Now be quick.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, Missus, I go right smart.

[*Toby enters.*]

(*Captain.*) Well, Toby, how do you get along with your new assistant, the young Hebrew?

(*Toby.*) Oh, first rate, Massa. He is a wonderful smart boy. Nebber hab to tell him to do a thing twice. You see he has not been with me but a little while, and he can market and ouy almost as good as I can. I tell you, massa, he is a wonderful boy. So trusty and honorable I believe you could trust him with all you have, and he would nebber steal a penny.

(*Captain.*) I am glad to hear it, Toby. You can go. (*Exit Toby.*)

Captain and wife converse together.

Bertie.) Well, Captain, what do you think of Toby's report?

(*Captain.*) I am not at all surprised, for I noticed the very first time I saw the little fellow there was something peculiar about him. He seemed to have such a frank, open honest face, that I took a fancy to him, and I think I got a prize when I bought that little shepherd boy. I would not wonder if at some future time, not far distant either, he will be able to take entire charge of my household affairs; it is just what I have wanted for a long time, some one that I could trust to take this burden off my shoulders. Dear Bertie, we will wait and see if I am not a true prophet. Now, good bye, I must be at my post.

(*Exit Captain.*)

Wife alone, talks to herself.

Yes, I told my husband I had not seen him since he brought him here; but I have seen him and have noticed what a marked change only a short time has made in him, not only in his activity and intellect, but more particularly in his personal appearance. He is really becoming charmingly beautiful, and every day seems to add new lustre to his charms, and if the captain should take it into his head to give him full control of our household, I don't know—I don't know—Oh, I dare not think of what might happen.

(*Exit wife*) who soon returns and says: They say there has been some hard fighting with the King's forces, and my husband has been away so long it is possible he is dead.

[Daisy enters and says: A letter, Missus. (She reads it and exclaims): He will be here to-night. I will sit down and wait. (And soon captain enters). They embrace, and the captain says: Well, dear Bertie, how have you been since I have been away?

Bertie replies: Oh, I have been very lonely, you have been gone so long. What kept you?]

(*Captain*) We have had some trouble with the King's enemies, and it has taken all this long time to quell the disturbance, but is over now, and I shall have a little time to rest, and as I mentioned to you before I left home, I am going to fix up my household affairs, and put them in charge of the young man Josie. You know he has been with us now about five years, and we have never seen the first thing wrong with him, and we never had such prosperity before he came with us, and it will take such a load of care off my shoulders.

(*Captain to servant girl.*) Here, Daisy, where are you?

(*Daisy.*) I'se just here, massa.

(*Captain.*) Run down and tell the young man Josie to come up to my room. Be quick now.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, massa, I goes awful quick.

(*Josie enters.*) Did you send for me !

(*Captain.*) Yes, my man, I have a little matter of business to lay before you. You have now been with us about five years, and I have always found you a faithful servant. My butler tells me that for a number of years you have done all the important business of my household, and everything seems to prosper with you. Your prosperity is mine, and therefore, I have determined to place you in full charge over all my affairs. All in my house and fields is at your command, none will be greater than you, save my wife, whose counsel perhaps you may stand in need of. Here is a new suit and my signet ring, which will be a guarantee for you in any business transactions you may wish to enter into for me. Now, try and be as faithful in the future as you have been in the past, and all will be well with you.

(*Josie.*) My dear master, how can I find words to express my gratitude for the confidence that you have placed in me in elevating me to such a high and responsible position. I am aware of the fact that everything has been prosperous with me since you brought me here, but it is not to me to whom honor is due, but to the Lord God of heaven and earth, the God of my father, whom I serve, for he has been with me, and prospered me, and has promised to be with all who love and serve Him! His promises never fail. I will be ever faithful to the trust which you have confided to my keeping. (*Exit Josie.*)

(*Captain to wife.*) Now, Bertie, I feel relieved, for I believe that the young man will attend to my business affairs better than I could myself. I can now devote my time more fully to the king's service, and to-morrow I shall go on an expedition that may keep me from home for several weeks, and it may be months. In fact, I can't say when I might be home again; but you and the young man can manage without me until my return. (*Exit Captain.*)

(*Mistress calls.*) Daisy, where are you ?

(*Daisy.*) I'se just here, missus, I'se just comin'.

(*Mistress.*) That will do Go and tell the young man Josie to come to my room, I wish to see him.

(*Daisy.*) Yes' um. (*Exit Daisy.* *Josie enters in new suit.*)

(*Mistress.*) Why, Josie, how splendid you do look in your new suit. You look like a prince, take a seat. Your master has gone on an expedition for the king and may be away for a long time, and we will have to manage the estate until his return. We can do it, can't we ! Now, I want you to come to my room every day and report to me. We will counsel together as to the best way to manage our affairs.

(*Josie.*) Very well, I will call to-morrow at 2 p. m. (*Exit Josie.*)

(*Mistress alone.*) What a splendid specimen of manhood. Certainly there must be noble blood coursing through his veins. He is irresistible. What shall I do? I ~~can~~ cannot endure this burning passion longer. I must win him, he must be mine. Yes, and he shall be mine. I must have him, no matter at what cost, and to-morrow I will take my first step, and if he repulses me, woe be unto him! (*Exit and soon returns, and says*) 2 p. m., time he was here now. Yes, there is a knock. Come in. (*Josie enters.*)

(*Mistress.*) Well, my dear Josie, you look very pleasant to-day. How have things prospered since we met yesterday?

(*Josie.*) Very nicely. Everything has gone well with me. Is there any new order for me to-day?

(*Mistress.*) I don't know. Don't be in a hurry. Sit down and we will talk things over and see what is to be done. (*He takes a seat.*) Now, I want you to be social, and not be so shy of me. To be sure, I am your mistress, but what of that? Your master is absent, and if you are inclined to be social, we can have a good time together while he is away, and he will never be the wiser for it. There is no new business for to-day, but think over what I have said to you, and come again to-morrow at 2 p. m., and we will have a little social talk together. Good bye until to-morrow. Remember, at 2 p. m. (*Exit Josie*)

(*Mistress alone—Talks to herself.*) How strange and indifferent he does act. He don't seem to appreciate his position at all. I can't seem to make any impression upon him. What can I do to win his love? I must try my very best to-morrow. (*Exit.*)

(*Mistress on stage, looks at watch.*) 2 p. m. It is time he was here. Yes, I hear his footsteps coming. (*He knocks.*)

(*Mistress.*) Come in, you are right on time. Is all well with you to-day?

(*Josie.*) Very well, indeed. Everything is going along nicely, and I am going to try my best while my master is away.

(*Mistress.*) O, don't be talking all the time about business. Sit down here by me and let us have a little pleasant chat together. (*Takes a seat.*) Now, Josie, my dear, how would you like to have your liberty, have plenty of money and go traveling to some beautiful far off country and have an accomplished lady for a traveling companion? Would not that be nice?

(*Josie.*) Perhaps it would, but it cannot be, for I am but a poor slave, and in a strange land.

(*Mistress.*) It can be, and if you will but listen, I will tell you how. Dear Josie, I cannot keep it from you any longer. I love you desperately, and if you will but consent to fly with me, we will take all the treasure

of my lord, the Captain, which are abundant, and fly to some beautiful far off land, where we can dwell in undisturbed happiness. Now, say you consent, and I shall be happy.

(*Josie*) You know my master has committed all his household to my care ; nothing has he kept from me, but thee, because thou art his wife. How then can I do this great sin against my master and against God ? It cannot be ! I cannot consent to rob my master of his wife and treasure and thus sin against God. (*He rises to leave.*)

(*Mistress.*) You shall not go ! Stay with me ! [She seizes him, and a struggle ensues, in which she tears off a part of his coat ; she screams for help, while Josie runs out and some men rush in.]

(*Mistress, holding up a piece of his coat.*) See what that Hebrew has done ! He came in to insult me, and when I screamed he fled and left this piece of his garment, and here it is.

(*One of the men.*) The Captain will be home to-morrow. Keep the piece and show it to him. It will be good evidence against him, and master will see that he is severely punished.

(*Mistress.*) I will do it. You can go. (*Exit men.*)

(*Mistress alone, talks to herself.*) I will show him that he cannot trifle with me. My love for him has turned to hatred. Revenge is sweet, and I will have it. I wish the Captain was here now. Daisy, Daisy, where are you ? Come here quick.

(*Daisy.*) Here I is, missus. I'se just comin'.

(*Mistress, sharply.*) Well, go down to the office and see if the Secretary has heard anything from your master.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, missus. I'se going right smart quick.

(*Mistress.*) I wonder if he will be here to-night.—

(*Daisy returns.*) Yes, missus, they say he is almost just here now, and will be here just as soon as he comes.

(*Mistress, sharply.*) You stupid thing ! What do you mean ? I want to know if he will be here to-night.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, missus, he's jus' most here and will be here to-night. They's jus' almost ready to receive him now.

(*Mistress.*) Very well, ran and watch for him, and and let me know when he arrives.

(*Daisy.*) Yes, missus, I watch awful smart. [*Exit Daisy, and soon returns and finds her mistress walking the floor.*]

(*Daisy.*) He's come, missus, and is jus' comin' up de stairs.

Enter Captain, and rush together and kiss.

(*Bertie.*) Oh, my dear husband, I have some terrible news to tell you. That Hebrew, Josie, whom you placed over your household when you left, came into my room

yesterday and insulted me, and when I screamed he fled, leaving this piece of garment with me, and I kept it to show you.

Captain.) Is it possible! I could believe it only from your own lips. He shall suffer for this, the ungrateful wretch. Here, Daisy, go tell Toby I want him.

(Enter Toby.) Did you send for me, master?

(Captain.) Yes. Go tell the prison official to arrest Josie, the Hebrew, and bring him here to me. *(Exit Toby.)* *(To wife.)* Can it be possible that I have been so terribly deceived in this young man?

(Bertie.) Yes, my dear, you have been thus deceived. He is a wicked fellow, and deserves severe punishment.

[Officer appears with Josie, and says, Here's your man, Captain.

(Captain to Josie, sharply.) What do you mean? What kind of conduct is this I hear of you since I have been absent? After my favoring you so highly in placing you over my entire household, you have the audacity to insult my wife. You ungrateful wretch, you deserve to be hung!

(Josie.) Master, I am innocent.

(Captain, cutting him short.) Not one word. Here is your garment and your mistress' word, and that is evidence enough for me. *(To Officer.)* Away with him, strip him, and cast him into the dungeon. *(Exit officer.)* Now, Bertie, can it be possible that I have made such a great mistake in that young man's character?

(Bertie.) It seems you have. I have always heard the Hebrews are very deceitful. *(Exit Captain & wife. Curtain drops.)*

[Scene—Josie in the prison with the other prisoners. Keeper enters into conversation with Josie.]

(Keeper.) Well, young man, I have been watching you closely since you have been here. I find that your behavior has been very good, and as you seem to be intelligent, I have concluded to place you over the other prisoners. Your duty will be to look after them and see that they are kept at work and properly cared for.

(Josie.) Thank you for the confidence you place in me. I will be faithful to my trust. *(Screen slides.)*

[Scene—Josie in conversation with two prisoners.]

(Josie.) Well, my comrads, what makes you look so sad, to-day?

(Prisoner.) We both dreamed a dream last night, and there is no one to interpret them for us.

(Josie.) Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dream.

(Prisoner.) In my dream behold a vine was before me, and in the vine were three branches, they budded and her blossom shot forth, and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. The king's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into the king's cup and gave the cup into the king's hand.

(*Joseph.*) Lucky man! This is the interpretation thereof. The three branches are three days, and within three days the king shall lift up thine head and restore thee unto thy place, and thou shalt serve the king as in former times; but remember me when it is well with thee, and make mention of me to the king, and bring me out of this place, for indeed I was taken away out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also have I done nothing, that they should put me into this dungeon. (*To the other prisoner.*) Well, comrade, what is thy dream?

(*Prisoner.*) I dreamed I had three white baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all manner of rare meats for the king, and the birds did eat them out of the basket.

(*Joseph.*) Unfortunate man! This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days, yet within three days shall the king lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee. (*Screen slides.*)

PART 3.

[*Scene—King on the stage with his officers, princes and valets.*]

(*King to officers standing around him.*) I have dreamed two dreams, and they trouble me very much. Now, go and bring in the magicians and wise men that they may interpret my dreams. [He talks with his court while the officers are out.]

(*Officers bring in wise men.*) Your counselors, O king.

(*King*) I have sent for you on very important business. I have dreamed two dreams! Behold, I stood upon the bank of the river and there came up out of the river seven fat kine, and fed in the meadow. I looked again, and behold seven other lean and ill favored kine came up out of the river, and they fed upon the fat kine and did eat them up. I dreamed again, and behold seven large beautiful ears of corn grew on one stalk, then seven thin ears stood beside them, and the thin ears devoured the full ears. Now, can you interpret my dreams and tell me the meaning thereof?

[Wise men step aside and consult together and then say, O king, may it not displease thee, for we cannot interpret thy dreams, they are mysterious, and beyond the power of man to solve.]

(*King, in anger.*) Begone out of my sight, ye vile hypocrites! (*Exit wise men.*)

(*King.*) Is there not a man in all my kingdom who can interpret my dreams?

(*Chief Butler.*) May it please thee, O king, let me speak. I do this day remember my faults. Thou dost remember that a long time ago thou wast angry with thy servant and the baker, and did cast us into prison.

While there we both dreamed a dream and were very much troubled on their account. There was with us in the prison a young man, a Hebrew, and we told him of our dreams and he did interpret them for us. He restored me to my place and the baker he hanged on a tree. Thou, O king, knowest that it was even so done to us.

(*King, to one of his officers.*) Go and tell the captain of the guard to bring the young man before me forthwith. (*Exit officer.*)

(*King.*) Perhaps this young Hebrew may have greater wisdom than these wise hypocrits that have just left my court. I hope so.

[Captain brings Joseph before the king.]

(*Captain.*) The young Hebrew, your majesty.

(*King, addresses Joseph.*) Young man, I have a very important matter to lay before you. I have dreamed a dream, and there is none in all my kingdom who can interpret it for me. I have heard say of thee that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

(*Joseph.*) It is not in me, O king, but God shall give thee an answer of peace. Tell me thy dreams.

[King repeats his dreams.]

(*Joseph.*) Thy dreams, O king, are one, and God has shown the king what he is about to do. The seven good kine and the seven good ears of corn are seven years of plenty, and the seven lean kine and the seven ears of blasted corn are seven years of famine, and it shall be very grievous throughout all thy domain. Now, therefore, let the king look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over all the king's provinces, let him appoint officers over the land, gather all the surplus wheat, corn and all kinds of produce during the seven years of plenty and store it in the king's store-houses, that when the famine comes the people may live and the king's dominions not suffer.

(*King, to his Court.*) Can we find such a man as this (*Pointing to Joseph*)—a man in whom the spirit of God is? For as much as God hath shown thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art. Therefore, thou shalt be over all my dominion, and according to thy word shall all my people be ruled, only on the throne will I be greater than thou. See, I have set thee over all my realm. This ring is your authority. [King takes ring and puts it on Joseph's finger and places a gold chain around his neck, orders the royal robe for him and escort to go before him, and says, All shall bow the knee before thee, for I am king, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or his foot in all my kingdom. Thy name shall no longer be called Joseph, but Zapnath Paaneah, and if it is agreeable to thee thou mayst have the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Potiphar the priest to be thy wife.

(*Laud.*)

(*Joseph.*) O king, live forever ! With sincere gratitude I accept your kind offer, and if it please thee, now may Potiphar and his daughter be brought in at once, that we may inquire if it is agreeable to them also.

(*King.*) The advice is good. Officer, bring in Potiphar and his daughter forthwith. My nobles, make everything ready to receive the guests. (*Officer enters with father and daughter.*)

(*Officer.*) Your majesty's command is obeyed.

(*King.*) My most worthy Potiphar, if it please thee, let thy daughter be given to this my noble friend and benefactor whom I have placed over my vast domain, to be his wife. With my approbation wilt thou freely give her to him ?

(*Potiphar, to daughter.*) Art thou willing, my child, that our king should present you to this his dearest friend, to be his wife ?

(*Daughter.*) Dear father, I am perfectly willing that thou and our king should do with me as seemeth good unto you.

(*Potiphar to the king.*) O king, take my daughter and present her unto your friend.

(*King, to Joseph.*) My most noble friend, with the greatest of pleasure I now present this most accomplished and beautiful lady to be your wife. Take her, and may she be a solace and comfort to you all your days. (*Curtain drops.*)

[Captain and wife on the stage.]

(*Captain.*) My dear Bertie, have you heard the news?

(*Bertie.*) No. What is it, my dear ?

(*Captain.*) You remember the king sent me in great haste for the young Hebrew. Josie, and what do you think he has done ? He has made him ruler over his whole empire, and has given everything into his hands.

[Wife faints.]

(*Captain.*) Why, what is the matter, my dear ? Speak and tell me ! Speak, I pray you, and tell me what it is ! Are you sick ? Tell me quick !

(*Wife, revives.*) Oh, I dare not tell you ! It is terrible ! I deserve to die ! What shall I do ?

(*Captain.*) Tell me all, my dear. Don't hesitate !—What is it that troubles you ?

(*Wife.*) Oh ! I have been terribly wicked. Will you forgive me ? Can you forgive ?

(*Captain.*) Why, certainly I will. Tell me all. What is it ?

(*Wife.*) You remember two years ago I told you that the young Hebrew had insulted me in my room, and you was angry with him and cast him into prison.

(*Captain.*) Yes, I do remember it well, and I presume he deserved it.

(*Wife.*) Oh, no, he did not, for he was innocent. I am the guilty one ! Oh ! I deserve to die, for I deceived you ! It was all false ! Can you forgive me ?

(*Captain.*) Is it possible that I have been so deceived, and have punished an innocent man ? Well, Bertie, I will forgive you ; but what are we to do ? That man has it in his power to punish us, and even to take our lives, should he feel so disposed. I don't know of but one thing we can do, and that is to go and bow ourselves before him and confess all, and implore his forgiveness. Peradventure he may have mercy on us and pardon us. Let us do it before it is too late.

(*Bertie.*) Oh ! How can I see his face ? How I have wronged him, will he forgive me ?

(*Captain.*) We must go and cast ourselves at his feet, and if we die, it is but just. Let us go at once. (*Exit, curtain drops.*)

[*Scene—Joseph, the Governor and his staff on the stage. Captain and his wife rush in and fall upon their knees before him.*]

(*Governor.*) What is this, who art thou ? Arise and make thy petition known. (*They arise.*)

(*Governor.*) Is it possible, my old master and mistress. Why, what brings you here prostrate before me ?

(*Captain.*) We have come before thee to confess our faults and implore forgiveness. Oh, how terribly we have wronged you, My wife has told me all.

(*Bertie, kneels.*) Oh, yes, judgment has come upon me. My sins have found me out. Have mercy upon me and spare me. It is all my fault. My husband is blameless. O, spare us ! and we will be thy servants forever.

(*Governor.*) O, woman ! thou hast been very wicked and most cruel in causing me to suffer two long years in prison, but I trust you have seen your folly and repented it. Now, I will grant your pardon. Go, and be faithful to your husband, and sin no more. And you, my former master, I know you to be innocent, for I knew from the beginning you were not aware of the facts in the case, therefore I permit you to hold your position as Captain of the King's Guard. Go, and ever be faithful to your trust and all will be well with you. (*Exit captain and wife.*) Now, my men, we have work to do, let us be off at once. (*They leave.*)

Daisy Enters.) Oh, gorry, how scared I was ! I can hardly get my bref now ! I must been pale as a ghost, for my master say, may be de new Governor will kill 'em both cause dey put him in prison when he was der slave, and I was jus' harken all de time when de Governor was talkin' to 'em, and I jus' hold my bref all de time till I hear him say he forgive 'em, den I jus' jumped right up so high and was jus' good mind to run right up and kiss him, I was so glad ! O, didn't he look nice ! Jus' think when he first came here he was a little Hebrew shepherd boy, but he say the Lord he help him, and I guess he do, and make him such a great good man. I se goin' to be good too. (*Curtain drops.*)

[*Scene—Governor and his men.*]

(*Governor.*) Well, my men, how you progressing, are the king's storehouses full ? Are you prepared for the famine ? You remember this is the year for it to commence.

(*One of the men.*) Yes, my lord, we are all full ; and the famine has already commenced in our neighboring countries on the north. I should not wonder if they came to us for food before long.

(*Governor.*) Well, if any of those foreign neighbors come to buy food, bring them to me.

(*One of the men.*) We will do so. (*Exit all. Curtain drops.*)

[*Scene—Jacob and his sons.*]

(*Jacob.*) My sons, the famine is bearing hard upon us, and I have heard they have plenty of corn in Egypt ; take therefore money in your hand and go down and buy for us that we may live and not die. Benjamin will stay at home with me, lest peradventure some mishap might befall him. (*Exit all.*)

[Governor appears on stage. Officers come in and say, Here are some foreigners, and they come to buy corn.]

(*Governor.*) Admit them. (*They step in and bow down before him on their faces.*)

(*Governor.*) Arise and make known your business.

(*Rube.*) We are ten sons of one man of the land of Canaan and we have come to buy corn.

(*Governor, eying them sharply.*) I think you are a set of spies only come to spy out the land.

(*Rube.*) My Lord, we are no spies but we are twelve brethren of one man and behold our youngest brother is this day with our father at home, and one is not. We are true men and not spies.

(*Governor, sharply.*) I don't believe you. Officer, put them in prison, and bring them before me to-morrow. (*Exit all.*)

[Enter Governor, followed by officers.]

(*Governor.*) Bring in those foreigners that I may make further inquiry into their business. (*Officer exit and returns with men.*)

(*Governor to men.*) I have determined to test your honesty. Now, if you be true men let one of you be bound in prison and go ye and carry food to your father, but come again and bring your youngest brother with you and thus prove your honesty. Remember the boy must be with you or you cannot see my face.

(*Rube.*) We will do as thou hast said.

(*Governor.*) Very well. Officer, bind one of them. (*Officer binds one of them and puts him into prison.*)

(*Brothers counsel and talk together.*) We are verily guilty concerning our brother, when we saw the anguish of his soul, when he begged us to spare him.

(*Rube.*) Did I not tell you to lay no hand of violence upon the boy, but you would not hear me, therefore, his blood is required at our hands. Oh, this is terrible?

[Governor and officer returns and Governor beckons officer to take them away.] (*Exit officer with men.*)

[Governor turns and weeps, and says, Oh, my brethren, how my boyish dreams have come to pass this day, yet thou knowest it not. How those childhood days flash upon my memory. O that I could once more look upon the face of my poor old father ! It is all like a dream. (*Officer returns.*)

(*Governor to officer.*) Fill those men's sacks with corn, and put every man's money in the mouth of his sack and send them away. (*Exit all. Curtain drops.*)

[*Scene—Men at home opening sacks.*]

(*Rube.*) See here, boys, what does this mean ? Here is my money in the mouth of my sack.

(*All together.*) And so is mine, and mine.

(*Jude.*) There is a mystery about this. God is certainly bringing trouble upon us because of the cruelty done to our young brother.

[*Father appears on stage.*]

(*Father.*) Well, my sons, I am glad you have safely returned, but where is your brother Simeon ?

(*Rube.*) Dear father, when we came to the ruler of the land he treated us roughly, and called us spies, and put us into prison. When we told him we were no spies, but true men, and all the sons of one man and our youngest brother was at home with you and one was not, he would not believe us, but said we must leave Simeon in prison, and hasten home with our food, and come again and bring our brother Benjamin with us, and then he would release Simeon. We don't understand it, there is something wrong, for here we find all of our money in the mouths of our sacks.

(*Father, in agony.*) All is against me. Ye have bereaved me of my children. Joseph is not, Simeon is not, and now ye will take away Benjamin. He cannot go down with you, for his brother is dead and he is left alone, and if mischief befalls him, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

(*Jude.*) We must go immediately and return the money. My dear father, our brother must go down with us, or we cannot see the Governor's face, for he told us so. Now let him go, and I will be surety for him, and bring him back safely to you again.

(*Father.*) Must I indeed give up my dear boy. If it must be so, take him, and take more money to buy more corn, also the money which ye found in your sacks, and may God give you mercy in the man's eyes, that he may treat you kindly and let you return to me in safety. (*Exit all. Curtain drops.*)

[Governor on stage.]

(Officer.) My lord, those men who were here some time ago to buy corn, have returned again and brought their young brother with them, according to your request. What shall I do with them?

(Governor.) Take them to my house and stay and make ready, for they must dine with me at noon. (Exit officer.) *all*

[Men appear on stage. Officer brings Simeon to them and says, Here is your brother restored to you again. Now come with me.]

(Jude, speaks to the officer.) You made a mistake when we were here before, for we found all our purchase money in our sacks, and here it is, we brought it to you again, and also money to buy more corn. Be not angry with us, we know not who put the money in our sacks.

(Officer.) Peace be unto you! Be not grieved, for the God of your father hath put the money into your sacks. Come along. (Exit all. Curtain drops.)

[Scene—Governor at home, table spread, officer enters.]

(Officer.) Shall I bring them in?

(Governor.) Yes, bring them in.

[Officer shows them in. They appear and bow to the floor before the Governor, with presents in their hands.]

(Rube.) My lord, thy servants have done according to thy commands. We come again to buy more corn, and have also brought our youngest brother with us, and a few choice fruits of our land as a token of our friendship and kind regard for thee.

[Governor receives the presents and replies, I accept these tokens of friendship from your hands, and may they be tokens of true friendship between us. You are looking well to day. Is your father well—the old man of whom you spake—is he yet alive?]

(Rube.) Thy servant, our father, is in good health.

(Governor, pointing to Benjamin.) And is this your younger brother, of whom you spake. God be gracious unto thee, my son. (Governor turns aside and weeps.)

(Men together.) How strange he acts.

[Governor returns and commands to prepare meal, and commands them to sit down. They eat and drink and have a merry time together.]

(Governor to men.) You may retire. (Exit men.)

[Then Governor commands officer and says, Fill the men's sacks with corn and put every man's money in his sack again, the same as before, and put my silver cup in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and send them away at early dawn.] (Exit Governor.)

[Officer calls men in, gives them their sacks and sends them away. Governor returns and says to officer, Have you sent the men away?]

(Officer.) Yes, my lord.

(Governor to officer.) Make haste, overtake and arrest

them and say unto them, You have done wickedly and rewarded evil for good, and have stolen the Governor's silver cup. (*Exit both.*)

[*Side Scene*—Officer appears, hails men and says, What is this thou hast done? Ye have returned evil for good, and have stolen my lord the Governor's silver cup.]

(*Jude.*) Why speakest thou these words, God forbid thy servants should do such a thing! We returned the money we found in our sacks, and then how should we steal silver or gold out of thy lord's house. With whomsoever of thy servants it be found let him die, and we will all be thy bondmen.

(*Officer.*) Let it be according to thy word, and searches their sacks and finds it in Benjamin's.

(*Officer to men.*) Here it is, you must return with me to the Governor. (*Exit all.*)

[Governor on stage. Officer brings in men before him, and they fall on their faces.]

(*Governor, sharply.*) Arise and stand upon your feet. What deed is this ye have done, know ye not that such a man as I can divine?

(*Jude.*) What shall I say unto my lord, what shall we speak or how sha'll we clear ourselves. God hath found out thy servants. We are thy bondmen. Both we and he also with whom the cup is found.

(*Governor.*) God forbid that I should do so, but the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant, and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

(*Jude.*) Oh, my lord, let thy servant I pray thee speak a word in my lord's ears and be not angry with us, for thou art even as the king. My lord asked us, have you a father, and we said we have a father, an old man and a little brother the child of his old age, and his brother is dead, and he alone is left to his father and his father loveth him, and thou didst command us to bring him down to thee. When we said to our father the lad must go down with us he said, no, lest some mishap befall him on the way and you bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. But we said he must surely go down with us, for the man said except ye bring him down we cannot see his face, and I said I will be surety for the lad, and if I bring him not back with me again my life shall be the forfeit. Now I pray thee let thy servant abide with thee instead of the lad, a bondman unto my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers to his father, for how could I go up to my father and the lad not be with me, lest peradventure I see the evil that should come on my poor old father.

[*Governor, in great agony says, Let every one but these (pointing to his brothers.) leave the room.*] (*Exit all but his brothers.*)

[Governor weeps aloud and says, Don't you know me, I am your brother Joseph, the little shepherd boy ye sold to the Gypsies. Doth my father yet live? Come near me I pray you, I am your brother Joseph, whom ye sold to the gypsies. Now, don't look so sad or be angry with yourselves that ye sold me, for God did send me before you to preserve your lives, for there yet five years of famine to come, and God sent me here to preserve your lives, for He has made me ruler over all the king's dominions. Now make haste and go up to your and say unto him. Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me ruler over all the land of Egypt. Come down unto me and tarry not, and thou with all thy household shall dwell in the land of Goshen. There will I nourish thee. Behold, your eyes see that it is my mouth that speaks unto you. Tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and all that ye have seen, and make haste and bring him down hither. [Governor embraces Benjamin and then embraces them all, and they depart. (*Exit men.*)]

[Governor orders officers to load them with corn and sends them away. (*Exit all.*)

PART 4.

[Scene—Father upon stage alone, sons enter and Jude says, Dear father, we are all safely home again, and bring good news to you. Joseph, our brother, is alive, and is Governor over all the land of Egypt.]

(*Father.*) My dear sons, don't trifle with me, for he has been dead these many years! Didst thou not tell me that some evil beast had torn him to pieces, and did you not bring his bloody coat to me in proof of what you said? How then can he still live?

(*Levi.*) My dear father, let me explain to you. We, thy sons, have been very wicked—we deceived you. Our little brother was not torn to pieces by beasts, but we plotted against him, and sold him to a band of gypsies; they took him down to Egypt and sold him to one of the king's officers. In the course of time the king dreamed a dream, and Joseph interpreted the dream, and it so pleased the king that he made him ruler over all his land. He is now even as the king in power and glory.

(*Father.*) Is it true you have so deceived me! Is it true that my dear boy, Joseph, still lives! Shall I see his face once more before I die!

(*Jude.*) It is even true, my dear father. See here what costly presents he has sent you, and told us to make haste to bring you down to him.

(*Father.*) Oh, those dreams! Don't you remember the boy's dreams! How truly they have all come to pass! It must all be true. I will go down and see him before I die. (*Exit all. Curtain drops.*)

[*Scene—Captain and wife on stage. Enter Daisy and hands captain a letter. He opens it and reads aloud.*] King's Palace, 3 P. M.

To M. Potiphar, Captain of the King's Guard :

Sir—You will be in attendance with your household and military staff at the Governor's residence to-morrow at 2 P. M. to receive the Governor's father and household, who are to arrive here from the land of Canaan at that hour. By order of King Pharoah.

(*Bertie.*) My dear husband, what does this mean ?

(*Captain.*) Mean ? Why, it means just what it reads, that we are invited to be present at the great reception the king is going to give the Governor's father and family. He thinks the world of our Governor, and well he may, for he is the most wonderful man that ever lived. He has won the hearts of all the people by his great wisdom and kindness. You know he always renders good for evil.

(*Daisy.*) Dat's so massa, him good all de time, him neber was bad. Jus' tink how he spared you and missus.

(*Captain.*) Never mind, Daisy, you can go along with your mistress and see him again.

(*Daisy.*) O, I se so glad I can go, Gorry, aint I happy, (*and dances about.*) (*Exit Daisy.*)

(*Captain.*) Well, Bertie, I must now be looking after our forces, and you tell the Superintendent to have eberything in readiness and meet me at the Governor's mansion at the appointed hour. Good bye. (*Exit all.*
Curtain drops.)

[*Scene—King Phroah, Governor, Nobles and Offiers. Officer enters and announces the arrival of the guests. King orders them to be brought in. Joseph rushes to his father, embraces him and cries out, O ! my father !]*

(*Father.*) O ! my son ! Is this my dear boy, Joseph, who was dead and is alive ? Is it a dream, or is it true ?

(*Joseph.*) It is all true, my dear father. This indeed is your son Joseph.

(*Father.*) Now let me die in peace since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.

(*Joseph.*) No my dear father, you must not die ! but live long to enjoy the comforts I may be able to afford you. (*He turns to the king, and says*) Your majesty, it is with great pleasure I present to you my father.

(*King.*) Welcome, venerable father, I am most happy to meet you on this grand occasion of the reunion of father and son. Long may you both live in the enjoyment of each other's society.

(*Father.*) Your majesty has truly said this is a happy day to me and mine. A day I had never expected to see, and I learn has been all brought about by thy goodness to this my son. Long may the king live in undisturbed peace and happiness.

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